

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01 COME-00 AGR-01

EPG-02 /081 W

-----132038Z 052832 /63

R 131721Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 624

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 4508

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SUAREZ INTERVIEW

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE EUROPA PRESS AGENCY JUNE 11, PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ RESPONDED TO PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN QUESTIONS, GIVING HIS PUBLIC POSITIONS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES. HIS STATEMENTS, WHICH HAVE RECEIVED HEADLINE COVERAGE IN THE MADRID PRESS, ADDRESS SUCH ISSUES AS HIS CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE, PROBABLE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, REGIONALISM, AND THE ECONOMY. SUMMARIES FOLLOW:

--HIS CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE: THE ELECTION RESULTS

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WOULD INFLUENCE THIS "DECISIVELY"; WHILE NOTING THAT LEGALLY HE COULD REMAIN REGARDLESS, HE STATED THAT, "I DO NOT DESIRE TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE IF I DO NOT OBTAIN THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO BE ABLE TO GOVERN EFFECTIVELY."

--COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT: "THE FORMATION OF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT WILL DEPEND, LIKE MY REMAINING, ON THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS. THE UNION DE

CENTRO DEMOCRATICO, THE ELECTORAL COALITION TO WHICH I  
HAVE COMMITTED MYSELF, THINKS THAT IT HAS A GOOD PROG-  
RAM OF GOVERNMENT, AND IS GOING TO TRY TO COMPETE IT.  
THE NEW WILL BE THOSE WHO TURN OUT TO BE FITTEST FOR  
THAT WORK, AND WILL OF COURSE BE THOSE THAT CONNECT IN  
SOME WAY WITH THE (THEN) EXISTING REPRESENTATION IN THE  
PARLIAMENT ...MEN PREPARED AND EFFICIENT, AND MEN WITH  
A BACKING THAT PERMITS THEM TO CARRY OUT THEIR MANAGEMENT."  
--ELECTORAL PURITY: STRESSED THE GUARANTEES ESTA-  
BLISHED TO PREVENT ANY OFFICIAL INTERFERENCE. WHILE  
NOTING THAT HE HOPED TO WIN, TERMED IT "MUCH MORE  
IMPORTANT THAT THE RESULTS BE ABSOLUTELY TRUE AND UNIM-  
PEACHABLE."

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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EPG-02 /081 W

-----132034Z 053416 /63

R 131721Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
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USEEC

--THE NATURE OF RECENT POLITICAL CHANGES: "SPAIN  
HAS NORMALIZED HER POLITICAL SITUATION...(BUT) THE  
TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY DOES NOT END, LOGICALLY, WITH  
THE ELECTIONS, RATHER A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS WITH THEM."  
--THE AMNESTY PROGRAM: ATTRIBUTED MUCH OF THE

DELAY TO NEW ACTS OF TERRORISM, WHICH WERE ARGUMENTS AGAINST AMNESTY. "TODAY THE PRISONS ARE PRACTICALLY EMPTY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS..NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO BLAME US...FOR NOT CARRYING OUT THE MEASURES FOR CONCILIATION."

--THE DIFFICULTIES OF GOVERNMENT: TERMED HIS ELEVEN MONTHS IN OFFICE "PRACTICALLY AN OBSTACLE COURSE", ULTIMATELY SOLUBLE BECAUSE, "THE COUNTRY, IN GENERAL, UNCLASSIFIED

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HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT."

--PROBLEMS OF THE ECONOMY: WHILE RECOGNIZING THE MANY PROBLEMS, HE DECLARED THAT THE "EXIT FROM THE TUNNEL" WAS VISIBLE, THAT MANY OF THE ILLS OF THE ECONOMY WERE DUE TO THE STRAINS OF POLITICAL TRANSITION, AND THAT CLARIFYING THE POLITICAL SITUATION WOULD SOLVE THEM, "IF A MARXIST OPTION, WHICH HINDERS THE CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY OF INVESTORS, DOES NOT TRIUMPH." AFTER REFERRING IN GENERAL TERMS TO A NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, HE NOTED IN CONCLUSIONS THAT THE ECONOMIC ILLS NEEDED A LONG AND PROFOUND CURE, OF WHICH THE GOVT COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ONLY A PORTION.

--THE FORM OF THE ECONOMY: ADVOCATED A MIXED ECONOMY OF "FREE INITIATIVE" BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF A MARKET ECONOMY AT THE SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC, THE COMPETITIVE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR, AND A GREATER CONCERN FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

--TAX AND AGRARIAN REFORMS: NOTED THAT THE UCD PROGRAM CALLS FOR TAX REFORM, WHICH HE REGARDED AS THE ONLY WAY TO ADEQUATELY ADDRESS SOCIAL NEEDS. ON AGRICULTURE, HE TERMED RATIONALIZATION MORE IMPORTANT THAN REDISTRIBUTION OF THE LAND, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR PROFITABLE USE OF LAND AS A PRODUCTIVE SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY.

--FOREIGN POLICY: WHILE NOTING THAT DOMESTIC POLICY HAD TAKEN PRECEDENCE, HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MANY COUNTRIES.

--REGIONALISM: DENIED FORCEFULLY THAT THE "UNITY OF SPAIN" WAS IN DANGER, BUT OBSERVED THAT IT MIGHT WELL BE IF REGIONAL DESIRES WERE IGNORED OR THWARTED. TERMED MOST REGIONAL DEMANDS "JUST AND ATTAINABLE", AND EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT, IF THEY WERE ATTENDED TO BY THE PARLIAMENT, "...THE UNITY OF SPAIN WILL EMERGE STRENGTHENED".

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--WHEN ASKED WHETHER, IF HE COULD RETURN TO JULY 1976, HE WOULD ONCE AGAIN ACCEPT THE PREMIERSHIP: "I NEVER BELIEVED IT WAS GOING TO BE EASY", BUT NOTED THE HELP HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE SPANISH PEOPLE, THEIR MODERATION AND GOOD EXAMPLE. "AND, ALTHOUGH RIGHT NOW LIKewise WE DON'T HAVE A BED OF ROSES AHEAD OF US, I WILL ACCEPT IT AGAIN IF I CAN COUNT ON THE NECESSARY POPULAR SUPPORT TO BEGIN A NEW TASK OF MORE CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS...TO CONSTRUCT A GREAT COUNTRY UNDER A DEMOCRATIC MONARCHY."STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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